

REDMOND PARK BOARD

Minutes

August 7, 2003

Location: Idylwood Park

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Lori Snodgrass, Seth Kelsey, David Degenstein, Ann Callister, Suzanne Querry, Sue Stewart

Absent and excused: David Ladd; youth advocate Katherine Zak

City staff present: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Tom Trueblood, Recreation Manager; Lori Peckol, Planning Department; Mayor Ives

Welcome to Citizen Guests: J. Thomas Atkins, Patti Miele, Kevin Kaelber, Julie Lynd, Steve Isaac

Welcome to New Commissioner: Sue Stewart

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of July 10, 2003 Redmond Park Board minutes as submitted by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: Ann Callister

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

A. Handouts

- WRPA E-Mail News
- Redmond City Council 3/21/03 Retreat minutes
- City Hall Development, Project 95-CI-77

B. Additions to the Agenda

None

V. Old Business

A. Idylwood Park Feasibility/Master Plan

Cox introduced J. Thomas Atkins, a consultant that has provided assistance in preparation for the Idylwood Park plan. Park Board gave the following input as they reviewed the drawings:

- The Plan shall be an opportunity study to begin renewal of the Park (Board)
- Increase park utilization (Degenstein)
- Increase parking and make it more efficient (Degenstein)
- Use recreational zones fitting the characteristic of the park's landscape (e.g., wet zone, picnic [passive], more open zones [active] (Degenstein)
- Preserve forests and wetlands (Kelsey)
- Supportive of children's area, sand volleyball; see that every area has it's own space (Callister)
- Separate the age-specific areas, e.g., teens from families with young kids (Degenstein)
- Supportive of children's play structure (all)
- Improve the access with a safer crossing, possibly grade separated, to the park/neighborhood (Degenstein)
- Supportive of aspects proposed, but not at the expense of losing open space, trees, and water elements; preserve sense of openness and water (Snodgrass)
- Provide music/dance setting or stage (acoustical and complementary to the lake); bring a focal point for community gathering, such as this and give it a name, e.g., "A night on the lake concert". (Stewart)

Citizen input

- Install a crossing apparatus (with arms coming down) to ensure safe pedestrian crossing from offsite parking area (Lynd)
- Provide a formal garden area (Lynd)
- Supportive of non-gasoline water craft (Lynd)
- A 3-story building will still affect the looks of the lake (Lynd)

Kelsey expressed concern that the relaxation element of the park would be lost due to the many recreational activities. Atkins responded that the design of the park would preserve and set aside natural, open areas. The beach size (i.e., number of people) would define the size of the parking lot (balance site qualities with the number of vehicles). Kelsey supported bicycle and bus access as opposed to more cars.

The Board asked that the consultant selected to assist in preparation of the opportunity/study define a thematic characteristic of the park. With consideration given to setting aside natural, open areas, and to defined areas. They asked to see the potential that exists—what the community might want to see—through giving the consultant some initial direction.

Cox noted that the Board would meet with the consultant selected, potentially Atkins, as they progress through the master plan process. Community/public input would be forthcoming.

B. Idylwood Park Water Activity Center

Steve Isaac, Sammamish Rowing Association (SRA) board president, presented a proposal for a multi-use activity center in Idylwood Park:

- A boat/kayak rental to serve the community
- Recreational and competitive rowing and kayaking
- Programs for both youth and adults
- Construct a 70-stall parking lot connected to existing parking, enhancing access to the park
- Activity center (potentially 3 floors) built into the slope of the land:
 - two bottom floors: boat storage
 - top floor (a center-point for the community gathering): large open decks, a banquet hall for meetings, weddings, parties, community events, etc.; meeting rooms off the large banquet room
- Project funding provided by the SRA (they would initiate a capital campaign to raise cash)
- Structure donated to City after lease back time period
- Project providing ongoing revenue for the City
- Running of programs would be discussed with the Parks Department
- The only rowing club on the Eastside (currently, with 150 adult/150 youth rowers, it is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest)
- A non-profit organization founded in 1996, with its beginning location at Idylwood Park

- Desire to be accessible to as many as possible with low fees and no membership fee required
- Generate volunteer activities from the participants
- Cover class costs with class fees; new equipment purchased through auctions

Isaac reported that King County has approved SRA to build next to its current location in Marymoor Park, however, many limitations exist (e.g., Class I wetlands). Therefore, SRA is looking to expand to another location, i.e., Idylwood. The current facility would still be used.

Isaac referenced the design drawing of the site location. A floating dock would be built for boat launch access on the north side of the stream for shells and kayaks. A single story launch house would be located in the water (like a covered marina) approximately 20x40 foot, with a low-pitch roof and used for limited small, motorized boat storage used by SRA. Fuel would be stored in a specially designed container.

Examples of other launch houses can be seen at Mt. Baker Rowing Center and the University of Washington.

Kelsey asked about the Shoreline Master Program regulations and the impact they would have on the building. Isaac explained that SRA is first looking for feedback as to whether or not the proposal would be received; then they would investigate the requirements and seek to meet the new Shoreline regulations. SRA would need to have the City's approval before applying for the permits.

Snodgrass asked how much impact would this additional programming have on the Parks staff. Staff's response was that it would be a "win-win situation" for both SRA and the City by providing activity opportunities to the public and improved access to the water. Past programming with SRA has worked well when they were located at Idylwood before. Although not many have been done, a public/private partnership is feasible.

Degenstein asked if there was support work to accommodate SRA's building construction that the City would need to do from a CIP standpoint. Trueblood responded that there would be a set of issues involving the waterfront development that the Park Opportunity/Renewal Study could assess.

Kelsey asked about the impact on the park. Trueblood answered that this site is under-utilized; therefore, it would add another significant (non-motorized) element to the park providing more diverse opportunity to the community.

Isaac noted that SRA would also like to hold regattas in the spring and fall—off peak seasons—bringing people from across the country, and revenue to the City. The 70 parking stalls would be used in the off-peak times (weekdays at early mornings and evenings) by SRA, leaving peak use hours and weekends for park users.

Isaac reiterated the two certain criteria needed to make the proposal work: (1) must have the ability to get launches in the water to support a facility of this size, and (2) must have adequate storage for a growing program.

Revenue produced for the City would include the following:

- SRA would hold a 40-year lease from the City, paying the City a lease fee
- At the end of the 40-year lease, SRA would give the facility to the City
- Regattas would bring in revenue from fees (i.e., park use fees)
- Concession stand fees

Trueblood noted that liability for the City would not be an additional concern.

Stewart, Callister, Querry, Snodgrass asked to go on record as supporting the Sammamish Rowing Association's proposal.

C. Park Board Recognition Awards

Postponed to September meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Comprehensive 5-Year Plan Update

Lori Peckol, Planning Department, summarized the Design Day workshop as bringing very favorable input, ideas, and values from the community. She reviewed the first phase of the Comp Plan to include vision, goals, and framework policies. The Planning Commission is also interested in the Park

Board's input to these. The Board believed the policies lacked substance for direction. They wanted to know how policies would be used and implemented, providing more guidance, e.g., as stated in FW-23 & 24 text.

Kelsey stated that follow up on studies in the past seemed lacking; all sounded good, but no implementation or mandate was designated. Peckol responded that elements bringing details and specifics would come with the next level of policies, also, with PRO Plan goals, priorities, and timelines.

Cox reminded the Board that the PRO Plan is the implementing mechanism that supports policy statements. The Comp Plan denotes broad policies that are used to identify objectives and strategies in the PRO Plan. The Park Board will be asked provide input to more specific policy statements at the next level of Comprehensive Plan review.

Callister requested a fuller text to bring an end result that could be checked off as implemented. Degenstein would like to see expressed what is important to accomplish, e.g., develop existing properties, acquire more land, etc.

Peckol asked for input about vision on page 10, noting the community input from Design Days showed a desire for gathering spaces and smaller open places. The Board had this input:

- Make pocket parks a priority within the downtown (Degenstein)
- Provide same emphasis on trails (with importance on connectivity) as parks; also place emphasis as the bicycle capital (Querry)
- Provide more water access and usage for increased recreational enjoyment (Callister)

Peckol announced the Planning Commission is targeted to finish their discussion next Wednesday. The Board may e-mail any additional thoughts to Peckol prior to that meeting.

Cox conveyed Redmond Trails Commission's input:

- Framework policies do not include transportation at this time; backbone multi-use trails are now designated on the TIP
- Emphasize recreational trails and non-motorized transportation facilities

B. Shoreline Master Program & Habitat Conservation Plan

Postponed to September meeting.

C. Student Advocate

Katherine Zak has requested to be considered for youth advocate position renewal, and has asked the Board to extend her term.

Motion to approve to renew Katherine Zak's youth advocacy position by:
Suzanne Querry

Second by: Dave Degenstein

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

D. Combined Board and Commission Meeting

Snodgrass announced that RTC has asked the Board to meet with them for common interest of discussion at RTC's regular meeting. The meeting would be held the last Wednesday in September, at either (1) LWSD administration building at Redmond Town Center, or (2) the potential area for development in that vicinity (the open space across from the LWSD building) if not raining. The Board concurred to meet with RTC on September 24, (RTC's regular meeting night) at 7:00 p.m. (possibly 6:30 p.m.). *Staff will make those arrangements.*

VII. Reports

A. Compost Facility at Farrel-McWhirter Park

Cox reported the Parks and Human Services Committee (PHSC) would be provided information leading to a request of Council to approve the moving of a proposed compost facility from the Watershed Preserve to Farrel-McWhirter Park.

B. Firefighter Plaza Allocation of CIP Funds

The PHSC will be asked to consider \$45,000 of unallocated CIP money to fund the Fire Station 11 Art Plaza and gathering space.

C. Construction Updates

Cox posed a possible Park Board tour at these park construction sites:

- Perrigo Park
- Grass Lawn
- Coast Guard Park (Phase I complete)
- ORSCC improvements

Board asked staff to arrange a tour before the October meeting. ***Staff will follow up with arranging a tour itinerary.***

D. City Hall

Cox referenced the handout of upcoming activities for the new City Hall development project. Park Board will be receiving an invitation to a City Council open house on September 11, 6-8:00 p.m.

Degenstein asked what involvement the Board would have with the new City Hall in regard to grounds, landscaping, etc. Cox assured that the open house on 9/11 would provide opportunity for input. Cox offered to explore opportunity with Mike Paul, project engineer, if the Board would like to submit written input. Snodgrass noted the City Hall design drawings from a year ago were outdated and not the same as what is being discussed now. The Board would like to address issues and concerns, and attend the scheduled meetings. Querry suggested writing a formal letter to City Council appealing to be involved in the process, and also, possibly inviting the project manager to a Park Board meeting.

Motion to direct staff to dialog with the project manager to see how the Park Board would be involved in the park portion of the new City Hall project, and also to invite the project manager to the Board's September meeting for discussion and presentation of the plans by:

Dave Degenstein

Second by: Ann Callister

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

Cox will follow up with the invitation to the project manager.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: Dave Degenstein

Redmond Park Board

August 7, 2003

Page 9

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

By: _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

Next Regular Meeting

September 4, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center